

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for removing particles for a processing device including ~~a vacuum container unit having a plurality of chambers in which a predetermined process is performed on a wafer carried in by a conveyer unit which is under atmospheric pressure, the apparatus comprising:~~

a vacuum container unit having a plurality of chambers for performing a predetermined process on a wafer;

a conveyer unit under atmospheric pressure for carrying said wafer to said vacuum container unit;

wherein said conveyer unit comprises a waiting-accommodation unit;

a charge neutralizing means for neutralizing charges generated on a surface of the wafer, the charge neutralizing means being mounted in a said waiting-accommodation unit which constitutes a part of the conveyer unit; and

a charging means for adsorbing particles in the vacuum container unit by electrostatic force, the charging means being mounted in the vacuum container unit.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the charge neutralizing means ~~is arranged to perform neutralization-neutralize of the said charges generated on the surface of the wafer by a discharge from an electrode mounted at a predetermined distance apart from the wafer.~~

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the charging means ~~comprises a metal plate mounted apart from the wafer moving in the vacuum container unit and arranged to adsorb the particles by charging the metal plate.~~

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the metal plate comprises internal plate electrodes mounted along the inner side of chamber side walls and external plate electrodes mounted along the outer side of chamber side walls to be opposed to the internal plate electrodes.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of removing particles for a processing device including a vacuum container unit having plurality of chambers in which a predetermined process is performed on a wafer carried in by a conveyer unit in atmosphere, the method comprising the steps of:

neutralizing charges generated on the surface of the wafer in a waiting-accommodation unit which constitutes a part of the conveyer unit; and

adsorbing particles existing in the vacuum container unit by electrostatic force.

6. (New) An apparatus for removing particles for a processing device, the apparatus comprising:

a vacuum container unit having a plurality of chambers for performing a predetermined process on a wafer;

a conveyer unit under atmospheric pressure for carrying said wafer to said vacuum container unit;

wherein said conveyer unit comprises a waiting-accommodation unit;

a charge neutralizer arranged to neutralize charges on a surface of the wafer, the charge neutralizer being mounted in said waiting-accommodation unit; and

a charger arranged to adsorb particles in the vacuum container unit by electrostatic force, the charger being mounted in the vacuum container unit.